BATMAN
WOLFMAN · APARO · DeCARLO
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JOKER MURDERS UNFUNNY
HANGING JUDGE HANGED BY JOKER
GOTHAM TIMES
"SHAGGY DOG" KILLING BY JOKER?

GALLOWS HUMOR.
PATRICKS WAS A HARD-LINER... THEY CALLED HIM THE HANGING JUDGE.
HE'S BACK! YOU KNOW I ACTUALLY PRAYED THAT THIS TIME HE WAS GONE FOR GOOD.
"JUDGE WILLIAM PATRICKS HE DIDN'T GET THE JOKE!"
WILDCARD!

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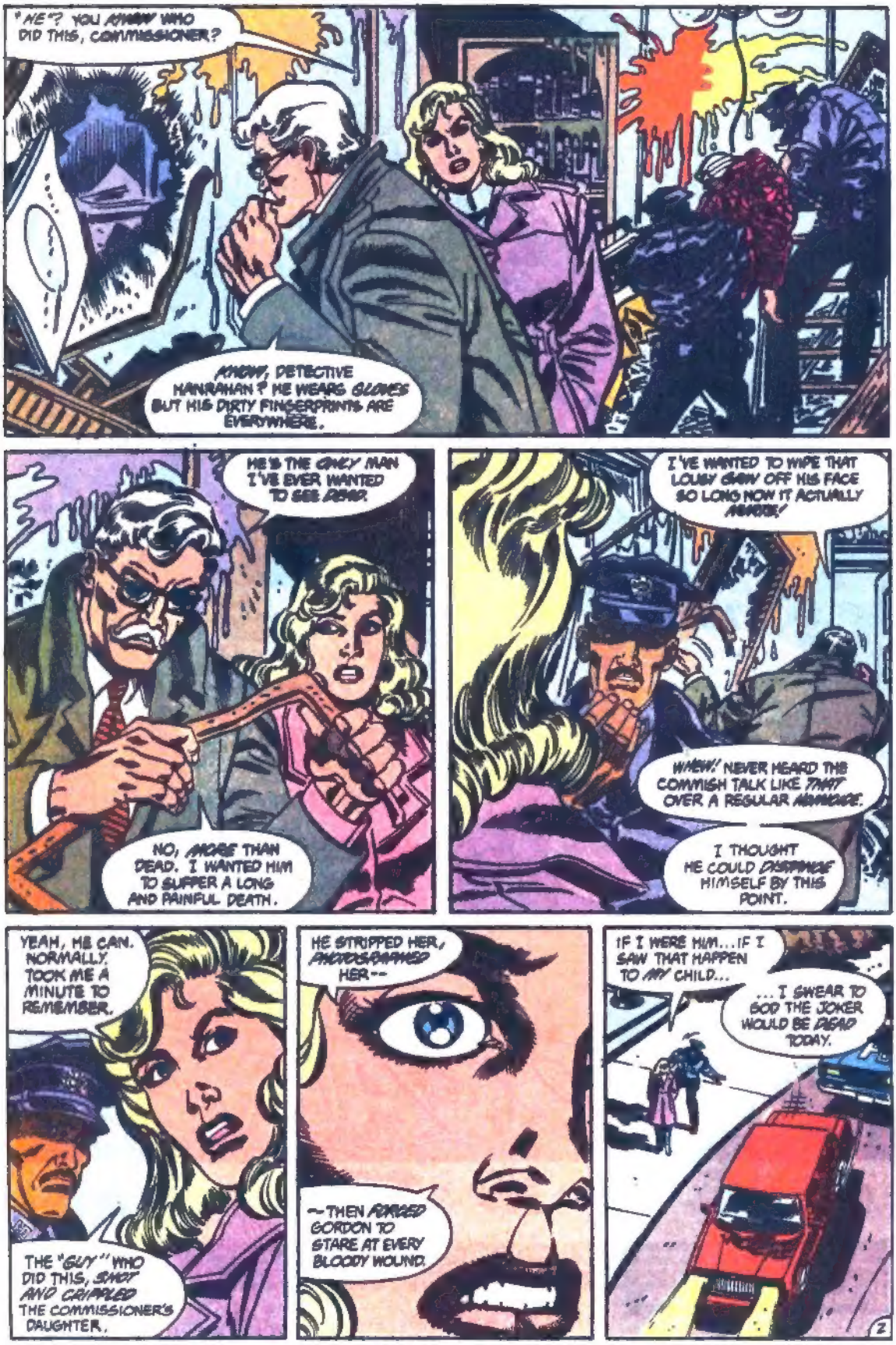

"HE"? YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS, COMMISSIONER?
KNOW, DETECTIVE HANRAHAN? HE WEARS GLOVES BUT HIS DIRTY FINGERPRINTS ARE EVERYWHERE.
HE'S THE ONLY MAN I'VE EVER WANTED TO SEE DEAD.
NO, MORE THAN DEAD. I WANTED HIM TO SUFFER A LONG AND PAINFUL DEATH.
I'VE WANTED TO WIPE THAT LOUSY GRIN OFF HIS FACE SO LONG NOW IT ACTUALLY HURTS!
WHEW! NEVER HEARD THE COMMISH TALK LIKE THAT OVER A REGULAR HOMICIDE.
I THOUGHT HE COULD DISTANCE HIMSELF BY THIS POINT.
YEAH, HE CAN. NORMALLY, TOOK ME A MINUTE TO REMEMBER.
THE "GUY" WHO DID THIS, SHOT AND CRIPPLED THE COMMISSIONER'S DAUGHTER.
HE STRIPPED HER, MOLESTED/RAPED HER--
--THEN FORCED GORDON TO STARE AT EVERY BLOODY WOUND.
IF I WERE HIM...IF I SAW THAT HAPPEN TO ANY CHILD...
...I SWEAR TO GOD THE JOKER WOULD BE DEAD TODAY.
2

WHY AREN'T YOU DEAD?
NOBODY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE.
IF YOU WERE DEAD I WOULDN'T HAVE TO REMEMBER.
OR SUFFER THE PAIN ALL OVER AGAIN.
OR FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH YOU.
BARBARA, WHAT DO I DO NOW?

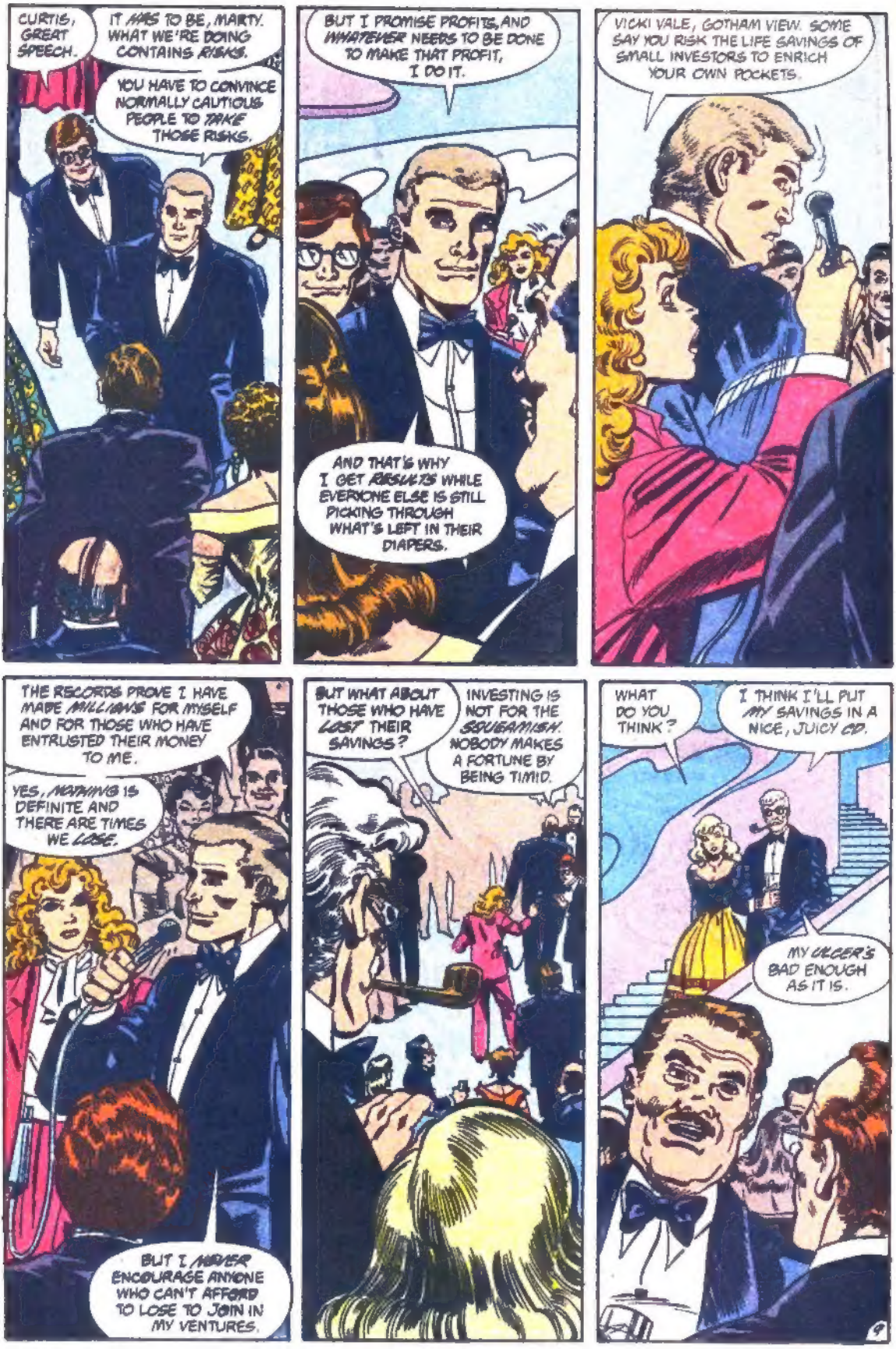
...ALTHOUGH THE POLICE REFUSE COMMENT WGBC NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT JUDGE PATRICKS' DEATH...
CONDEMNED
...IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO THE JOKER, THE CHALK-FACED MURDERER WHO HIMSELF SUPPOSEDLY PERISHED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
THE JOKER? THE JOKER?!? WHAT A JOKE!
THE JOKER KILLED THE HANGING JUDGE BY HANGING HIM?
I--I DON'T GET IT. IT'S NOT HUMOR... I-IT'S INSANITY.
UHHHHHH! STOMACH... HURTS... STILL HURTS.
WHERE'S THE JOKE?
C-CAN'T THEY TELL IT'S...
...IT'S NOT AT ALL FUNNY.

PLEASE MAKE SURE SEAT BELTS ARE FASTENED AND RETURN TRAYS TO THEIR UPRIGHT POSITION.
LANDING AT ZENITH AIRPORT WILL BE IN TEN MINUTES.
...C'MON, KIDS, STAY IN LINE AND FOLLOW THE BAGGAGE SIGNS.
WE CAN ALL HAVE A VERY SPECIAL WEEK HERE. TRY NOT TO SPEND IT IN YOUR HOTEL ROOMS.
PROFESSOR SMITH, YOU SAID BRUCE WAYNE AND FOR OUR CLASS TRIP?
WONDERFUL MAN, A PHILANTHROPIST, THEY SAY. HE LOST HIS SON RECENTLY, YOU KNOW.
FELT HELPING OTHER CHILDREN IN THIS FASHION WOULD MAKE THAT LOSS SEEM MORE BEARABLE.
MR. WAYNE... THE BOARDING SCHOOL CLASS JUST ARRIVED.
OF COURSE I'LL STICK WITH THEM.
DON'T WORRY, MR. WAYNE, I'LL MAKE CERTAIN THEY ARRIVE SAFE.
THANKS, KODO. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
PROTECTING MASTER TIMOTHY...OR YOURSELF, SIR?
I MADE A MISTAKE, ALFRED.
SELF-DOUBT? WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?
BE CAREFUL, SIR. NEXT YOU MAY BEGIN TO WONDER ABOUT THE FASHION RELEVANCE OF BLACK AND GRAY SWEATERS.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT TIM INTO MY LIFE.
5

THE JOKER'S RETURN PUNCTUATES HOW FOOLISH IT IS FOR ME TO HAVE A PARTNER.
I WON'T ALLOW ANOTHER BOY TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME.
I WANTED TO KILL THE JOKER BACK IN THAT HELICOPTER.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T.
I SHOULD HAVE. YET I COULDN'T.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS THE NEXT TIME BATMAN SEES THAT GRINNING FACE?
WHAT IF I DON'T... CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF?
YOU ALWAYS HAVE, SIR.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I ALWAYS WILL.

HELLO? EXCUSE ME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF YOU CAN LOWER YOUR DRINKS FOR A MOMENT--
...PLEASE PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER AND WELCOME THE MAN WHO IS GOING TO HELP US ALL MAKE OUR MILLIONS--
--CURTIS BASE, PRESIDENT OF FIRST FINANCIAL LIMITED OF GOTHAM.
HARRY, THANKS. AND THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE TONIGHT.
WE, YOU AND I, STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GREAT FINANCIAL BOON.
CLAP
EIGHT YEARS AGO I PURCHASED SIXTEEN ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED IN CALIFORNIA'S SAN BERNARDO VALLEY.
THAT'S RIGHT-- THE VALLEY, POINT OF RIDICULE. VALLEY GIRLS. THE ONLY CULTURE THERE IS IN THE YOGURT.
I PAID SEVENTY THOUSAND FOR IT. LAST YEAR I SOLD THAT SAME LAND FOR SIX POINT THREE MILLION.
THAT FIGURE AGAIN. SIX POINT THREE MILLION.
THAT IS THE KIND OF MONEY WE ARE DISCUSSING HERE.

COMMISSIONER.
DETECTIVE HANRAHAN, GLAD YOU MADE IT.
HAD TO CANCEL A DATE.
HAVEN'T WE ALL?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE'S GETTING USED TO IT.
BESIDES, WE'LL PROBABLY BREAK UP LONG BEFORE IT CAN GET SERIOUS.
WE ARE DEALING WITH LAND... AND YOU KNOW THE SAYING--"BUY LAND --THEY'RE JUST NOT MAKING IT ANYMORE."
WE ARE ALSO TALKING ABOUT SHELTERING YOUR MONEY IN A TAX-FREE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP.
A PARTNERSHIP THAT MIXES STOCKS, BONDS AND LAND.
A PARTNERSHIP IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE A TAX LOSS EVEN WHILE YOU ARE MAKING HONEST PROFITS.
STILL DON'T SEE WHY I'M HERE. I KNOW THERE'VE BEEN THREATS ON BASE FROM DISGRUNTLED INVESTORS, BUT HOMICIDE--
DETECTIVE, YOU'RE A RISING STAR IN THE DEPARTMENT. THEY'RE TALKING SUPERVISOR MATERIAL. PERHAPS EVEN A CAPTAINCY.
TONIGHT WE SUPERVISE.
WHEN THE NEW TAX LAWS WERE ENACTED, MOST TAX FREE SHELTERS WERE ELIMINATED.
A FEW, HOWEVER, SLIPPED THROUGH. THE WISE, MY FRIENDS, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE LOOPHOLES.
AND NOW THE DETAILS...


CURTIS, GREAT SPEECH.
IT HAS TO BE, MARTY. WHAT WE'RE DOING CONTAINS RISKS.
YOU HAVE TO CONVINCE NORMALLY CAUTIOUS PEOPLE TO TAKE THOSE RISKS.
BUT I PROMISE PROFITS, AND WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE TO MAKE THAT PROFIT, I DO IT.
AND THAT'S WHY I GET RESULTS WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS STILL PICKING THROUGH WHAT'S LEFT IN THEIR DIAPERS.
VICKI VALE, GOTHAM VIEW. SOME SAY YOU RISK THE LIFE SAVINGS OF SMALL INVESTORS TO ENRICH YOUR OWN POCKETS.
THE RECORDS PROVE I HAVE MADE MILLIONS FOR MYSELF AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ENTRUSTED THEIR MONEY TO ME.
YES, NOTHING IS DEFINITE AND THERE ARE TIMES WE LOSE.
BUT I NEVER ENCOURAGE ANYONE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO JOIN IN MY VENTURES.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR SAVINGS?
INVESTING IS NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH. NOBODY MAKES A FORTUNE BY BEING TIMID.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK I'LL PUT MY SAVINGS IN A NICE, JUICY CD.
MY ULCER'S BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS.
9

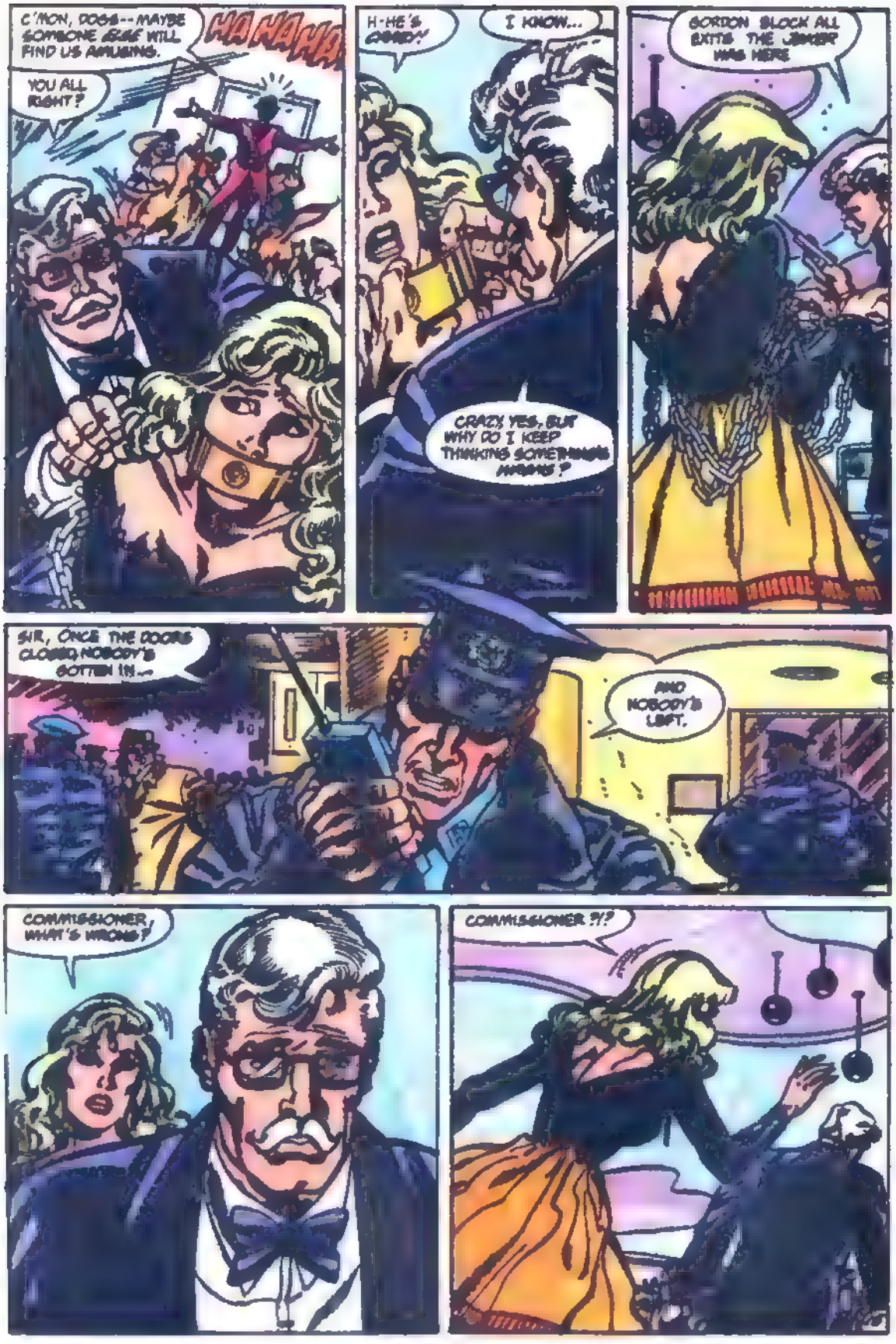
C'MON -- MOVE THE DOGS. WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.
AND NO MUTTERING FROM THOSE MUTTS.
WE DON'T WANT TO SPEAK OUR LITTLE SURPRISE, DO WE?
FOUR-LEGGED IS FOREWARNED, SO TO SPEAK! AH HA HA!
JUST BEYOND THIS DOOR LIES [illegible].
A DOOR TO ADORE! GET IT, BOYS? AH HA HA HA!
GROWLLL
KROAWLL
RAGH
GRRRR
WH-WHAT THE --
OH, MY DEAR GOD!
WH-WHAT DO WE DO?
STAY CALM... STAY CALM...
COMMISSIONER--?
YIP
RRR

DANA, GET TO A PHONE.
WE NEED BACK-UP!
DONE!
GROWLLLL
GRO
GRR
AIEEE! GET HIM OFF ME! AIEEE!
UH UH, PRETTY LADY.
NOT THE TIME TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE.
HATE THE IDEA OF KILLING A DOG, BUT--
BIG GUN FOR SUCH A LITTLE MAN.
BAG. PUN -- REMOVE THE MAN'S WEAPON.
YOU?!

WHY, YES, COMMISSIONER, YOURS TRULY. LONG TIME NO SEE, EH?
BET YOU THOUGHT I WAS ASPHYXIATING THE FIELDS BY NOW, DIDN'T YOU?
GROWLLL
GRRR
GRRRRR
HMMM WHERE'S BASE? HE'S RUN OFF, HAS HE?
I SO WANTED TO DEBASE HIM DEBASE BASE, GET IT?
I THOUGHT SINCE HE LIKED THE COLOR OF MONEY SO MUCH--
--SOME OF THAT COLOR MIGHT JUST RUB OFF ON HIM
WANT A MATCH, COMMISH? YOUR FACE AND MY HAIR! GET IT?
HA HA HA HA
WOULDN'T THAT BE REDUNDANT?
GROWLLL
GRRRR
PLEASE.. PLEASE DON'T HURT ME
YOU KNOW, I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF IT UNTIL YOU STUPIDLY HAD TO SAY THAT
TALA-- HURT HIM
HA HA HA
GRAWLLLL
12

REMINDS ME OF A STORY BUT FIRST--
--I KNOW MOST OF YOU BROUGHT CASH FOR THIS LITTLE GET-TOGETHER AND YOU WOMEN ARE ALL WEARING YOUR FINEST GOLD, SILVER AND DIAMONDS.
SO WHY NOT BE GOOD AND DROP YOUR GOODIES INTO MY FRIENDS' POUCHES?
YOU LOUSY-- GET THESE GOONS OFF ME AND YOU'RE DEAD.
COMMISH, I MAY BE INSANE, BUT I'M NOT CRAZY
TAKE A DOWNER, OLD MAN AND WATCH YOUR HEART
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN I MAY DECIDE TO ATTACK IT
HEART ATTACK GET T?
MY JOKES ARE SO WONDERFUL THEY CRACK ME UP.
AND SOMETIMES THEY CRACK UP OTHERS, TOO.
OOOHH, THAT'S HIM ALL OVER
TALK ABOUT YOUR BRAIN DRAIN
HAHAHA
YAGHHH
3

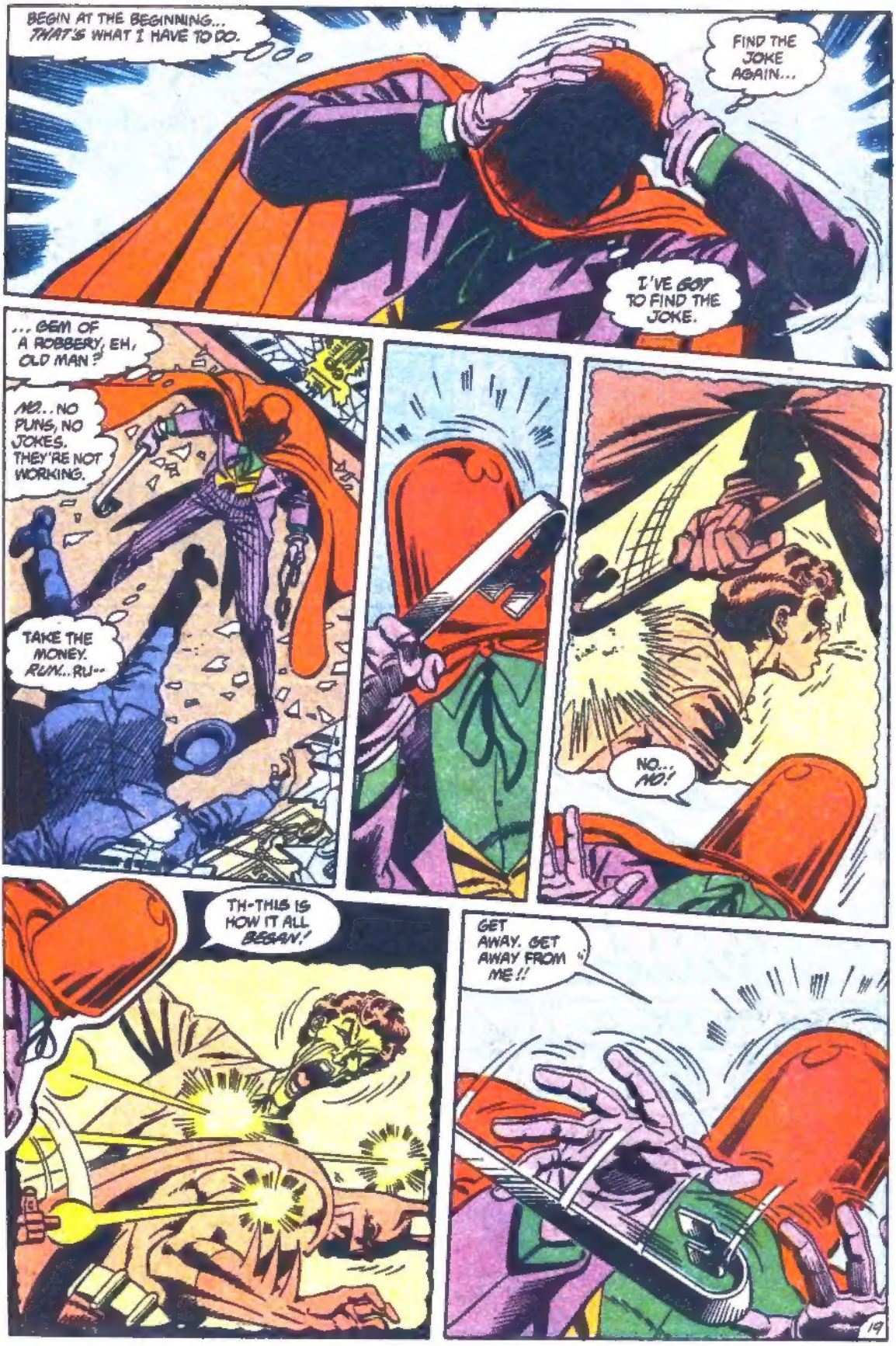
THE STORY. THERE WAS A LINE OF PEOPLE WAITING TO AUTOGRAPH THE SIGN-IN BOOK AT THE WHITE HOUSE.
IN THE LINE WAS A MAN. BEHIND THE NUN WAS AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY NAMED SHELLY.
WITH SHELLY WAS HIS MOTHER.
GGRROAWLLL!
SHELLY, ROTTEN LITTLE RUDE KID THAT HE WAS, KEPT ASKING AHEAD IN LINE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO CALM ADOWN? ONE MORE PEEP OUT OF YOU--
PLIN, BRING IN OUR OTHER GUEST.
SORRY DETECTIVE HANRAHAN COULDN'T SEE YOU BEFORE, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE'S ALL TIED UP.
DAMN YOU-- NOT AGAIN. NOT BARBARA!
BARBARA?
YOU FORGET YOUR OWN DETECTIVE'S NAME? AND THEY CALL ME CRAZY.
ANYWAY, COMMISH, CALM DOWN OR YOUR GIRL HERE WEARS A REMEMBRANCE GUN!
OKAY, MEN-- COLLECT THE CASH AND LET'S SPLIT
WHERE WAS I? SHELLY KEPT ASKING HIS WAY FAST THE NUN TO SIGN THE BOOK WHEN HIS MOTHER FINALLY SANG OUT--
"--WAIT TILL THE NUN SIGNS SHELLY." AH! AH! AH! REMEMBER THAT OLD SAYING? DON'T YOU GET IT, COMMISH?
PROBABLY NOT. THESE SHAGGY DOG STORIES ARE ALWAYS SO POINTLESS.

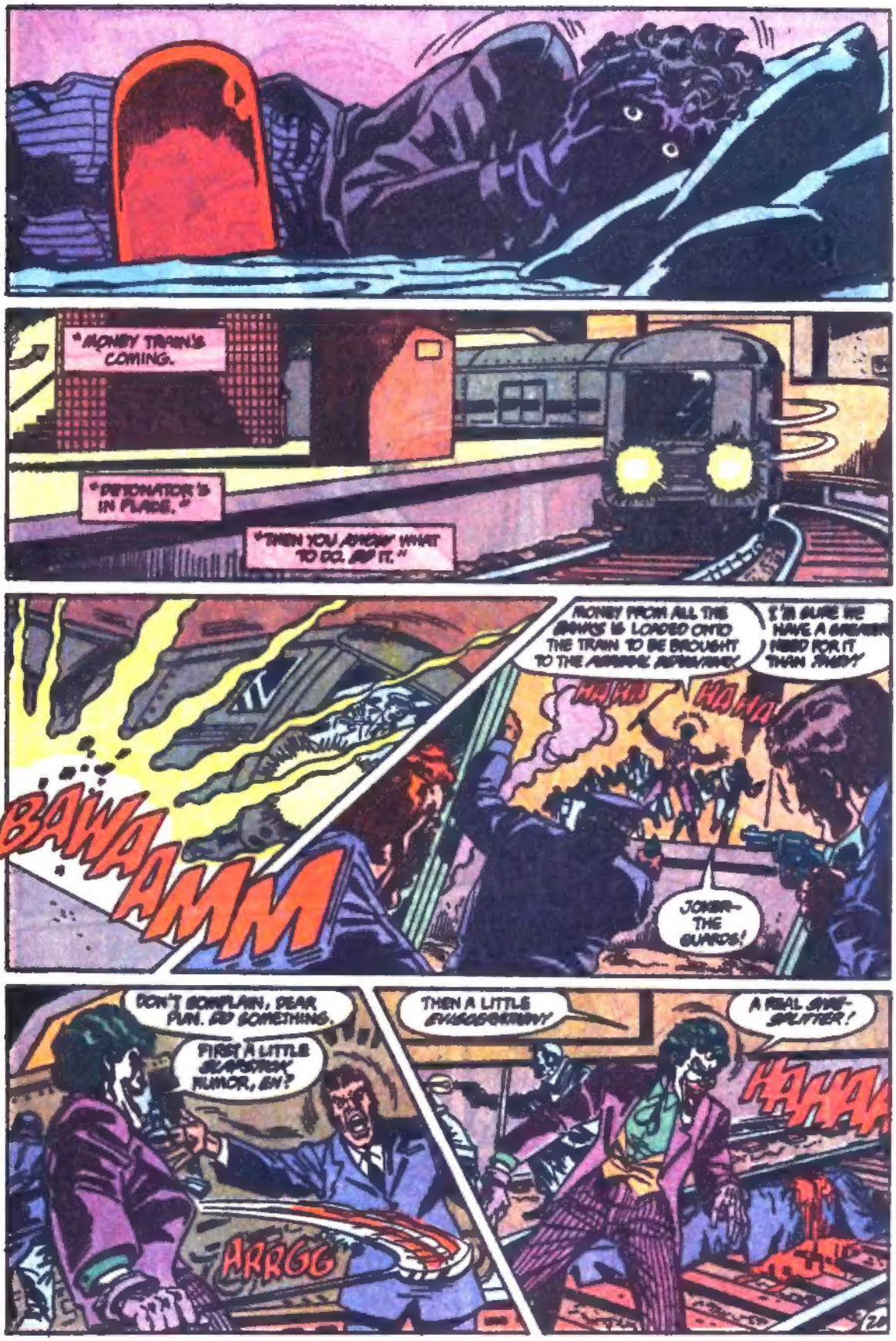

C'MON, DOGS--MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE WILL FIND US AMUSING.
HA HA HA
YOU ALL RIGHT?
H-HE'S CRAZY!
I KNOW...
CRAZY, YES, BUT WHY DO I KEEP THINKING SOMETHING'S WRONG?
GORDON BLOCK ALL EXITS. THE JOKER WAS HERE
SIR, ONCE THE DOORS CLOSED, NOBODY'S GOTTEN IN--
AND NOBODY'S LEFT.
COMMISSIONER, WHAT'S WRONG?
COMMISSIONER ?!?

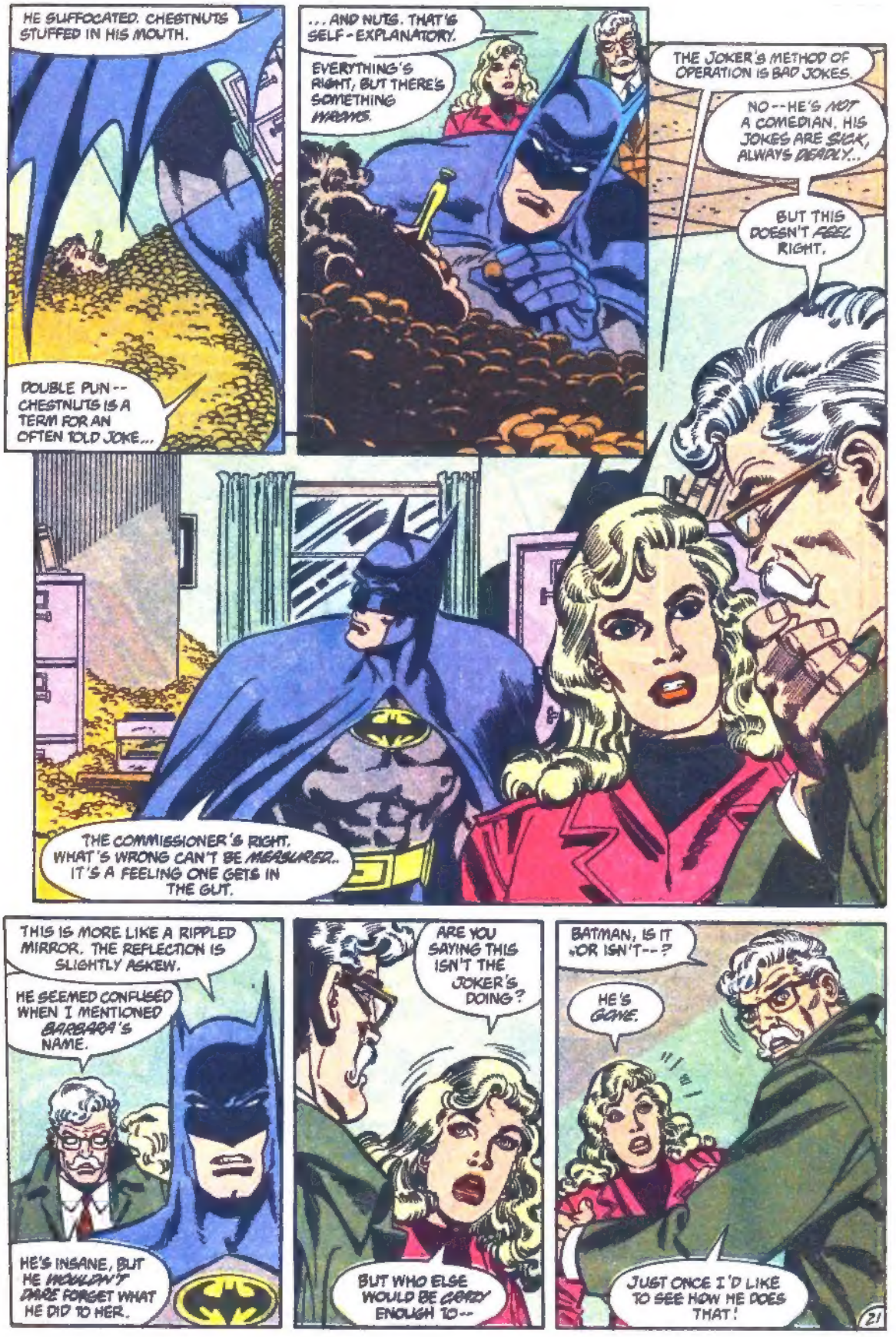
MY GOD--MR. BASE!?!
WE HEARD STRUGGLING
Joke's on you, Base!
J-JOKER... I--I COULDN'T FIGHT BACK. HE TOLD ME WHAT HE WAS DOING AND I COULDN'T STOP HIM.
WE'LL NEED A STATEMENT FROM YOU, SIR.
ANYTHING...WHATEVER, LORD, ALL THOSE POOR PEOPLE. THEIR MONEY...
START AT THE BEGINNING, SIR...
I--I CAN'T BELIEVE THE JOKER ATTACKED YOU. I--
MARTY, ARE YOU WITH ME? I MEAN 100 PERCENT WITH ME? NO MATTER WHAT?
OF COURSE, CURTIS. YOU KNOW I AM.
THEN I'M GOING TO TRUST YOU, MARTY. IF YOU FAIL MY TRUST...
CURTIS? WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IS THIS?
A MEANS TO AN END, MARTY. JUSTIFIABLE FOR DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.
YOU CAN'T ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS IF YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO.
TONIGHT I PUT US IN THAT POSITION. GOOD WILL COME OUT OF BAD.
B-BUT YOU MURMURED--
YOU WERE THE JOKER?!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH MOST AMERICANS, MARTY?
THEY'RE ACTUALLY AFRAID TO TAKE THE RISKS TO MAKE THEMSELVES RICH.
16

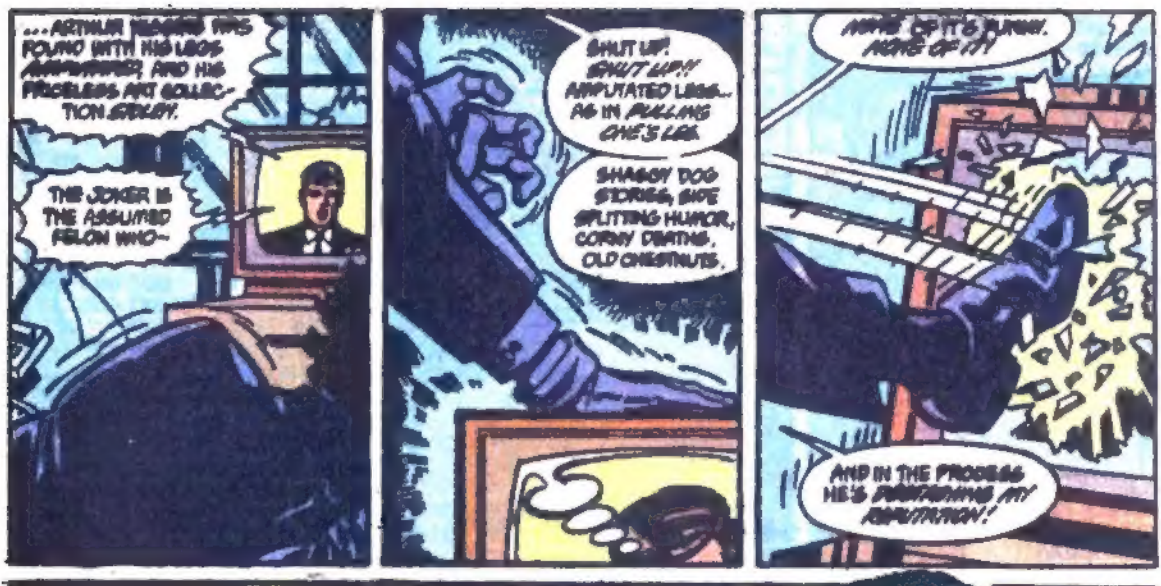
THEY'RE AFRAID PEOPLE WILL THINK LESS OF THEM IF THEY'RE GREEDY. THOSE PEOPLE GET NOTHING.
MONEY IS GREAT, MARTY. MONEY MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE. MONEY IS SECURITY.
TO HAVE IT MEANS YOU CAN LAUGH AT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO BEND YOUR WILL TO HIS.
DO YOU WANT TO BE OPPRESSED ALL YOUR LIFE, OR DO YOU WANT TO BE STRONG? POWERFUL? INDEPENDENT?
OF COURSE I WANT TO BE STRONG, BUT--
THERE ARE NO BUTS, MARTY. TO BE STRONG MEANS NOT WORRYING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.
THEY'RE WEAK BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID TO DO WHAT WE ARE DOING.
THEY WERE BORN WEAK AND POOR AND THEY WILL DIE WEAK AND POOR. ON THE OTHER HAND WE--
NO--NO, SIR. I CAN'T LIVE WITH--
ALL RIGHT, MARTY.
YOUR CHOICE.
WHOA--??
SKRASSH
MAKE CERTAIN THE JOKER'S MEN ARE SEEN NEAR HIS BODY.
I MUST BE LEFT IN THE CLEAR.

...THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED USING SPECIALLY TRAINED SHAGGY DOGS WHILE THE JOKER HIMSELF TOLD A SHAGGY DOG STORY OF HIS OWN.
ONCE AGAIN POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED COMMENT.
KILLER SHAGGY DOGS? I STILL DON'T GET IT.
MAYBE IT IS ME. S-SINCE THE GUNSHOT... I--I DON'T GET THE JOKE ANY MORE.
THIS I-IMPOSTOR IS OUT THERE TO DESTROY MY NAME WITH THOSE AWFUL, AWFUL JOKES...
...WHILE I--I'M STILL IN SO MUCH PAIN.
WHERE IS IT? I-IT'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE
NEVER BEEN HURT LIKE THIS BEFORE. I--I CAN'T BE SCARED TO BECOME THE JOKER AGAIN, CAN I?
THEN WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? COMEDY BLOCK? MASSIVE STAGE-FRIGHT?
THOUGHT THE STUNT WITH TWO-FACE WOULD REGISTER8 ME, BUT... IT DIDN'T.
THERE! THERE IT IS... THANK GOD.
THE RED HOOD... MY RED HOOD?
I--I WAS A CRIMINAL. JUST AN ORDINARY CRIMINAL...
...BEFORE I BECAME...
...BECAME WHAT I NOW AM.
18


BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING... THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
FIND THE JOKE AGAIN...
I'VE GOT TO FIND THE JOKE.
... GEM OF A ROBBERY, EH, OLD MAN?
NO... NO PUNS, NO JOKES. THEY'RE NOT WORKING.
TAKE THE MONEY. RUN... RU--
NO... NO!
TH-THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN!
GET AWAY. GET AWAY FROM ME!!
19


"MONEY TRAIN'S COMING."
"DETONATOR'S IN PLACE."
"THEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. DO IT."
BAWAMM
MONEY FROM ALL THE BANKS IS LOADED ONTO THE TRAIN TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ARMOURED DEPOSITORY.
I'M SURE WE HAVE A BREAKER NEED FOR IT THAN JIMMY
HAHA
HAHA
JOKER— THE GUARDS!
DON'T COMPLAIN, DEAR PUN. DO SOMETHING.
FIRST A LITTLE SLAPSTICK HUMOR, EH?
ARRGG
THEN A LITTLE EXAGGERATION!
A REAL GUT-SPLITTER!
HAHAH


HE SUFFOCATED. CHESTNUTS STUFFED IN HIS MOUTH.
DOUBLE PUN -- CHESTNUTS IS A TERM FOR AN OFTEN TOLD JOKE...
...AND NUTS. THAT'S SELF-EXPLANATORY.
EVERYTHING'S RIGHT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG.
THE JOKER'S METHOD OF OPERATION IS BAD JOKES.
NO--HE'S NOT A COMEDIAN. HIS JOKES ARE SICK, ALWAYS DEADLY...
BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
THE COMMISSIONER'S RIGHT. WHAT'S WRONG CAN'T BE MEASURED.. IT'S A FEELING ONE GETS IN THE GUT.
THIS IS MORE LIKE A RIPPLED MIRROR. THE REFLECTION IS SLIGHTLY ASKEW.
HE SEEMED CONFUSED WHEN I MENTIONED BARBARA'S NAME.
HE'S INSANE, BUT HE WOULDN'T DARE FORGET WHAT HE DID TO HER.
ARE YOU SAYING THIS ISN'T THE JOKER'S DOING?
BUT WHO ELSE WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO--
BATMAN, IS IT OR ISN'T--?
HE'S GONE.
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW HE DOES THAT!
21


...ARTHUR HEADING WAS FOUND WITH HIS LEGS AMPUTATED, AND HIS PRICELESS ART COLLECTION STOLEN!
THE JOKER IS THE ASSUMED FELON WHO--
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!! AMPUTATED LEGS... AS IN PULLING ONE'S LEG.
SHAGGY DOG STORIES, SIDE SPLITTING HUMOR, CORNY DEATHS, OLD CHESTNUTS.
NONE OF IT IS FUNNY. NONE OF IT!
AND IN THE PROCESS HE'S DESTROYING MY REPUTATION!

IT'S ALMOST FUNNY, BAD JOKES ARE RUINING THE JOKER!
NO-- MORE THAN ALMOST FUNNY-- IT IS FUNNY!
IT'S A SHERGAH!
HA HA HA
HA
THE JOKE-- I'VE GOTTEN THE JOKE AGAIN!
THE JOKER IS BACK--
--AND THIS TIME HE'S WILD!

NEXT ISSUE: The Joker said it all!